

Monongahela River

Middle Section

Fredericktown to McKeesport

Map & Guide



This map & guide was developed by the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (BARC), a non-profit community development corporation in Brownsville, PA. For more information visit www.barcpa.org.



Visit the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission website (www.fishandboat.com) to access the Monongahela River Water Trail: Upper Section Map and Guide (Fairmont, WV to Fredericktown) and the Three Rivers Water Trail Map and Guide (McKeesport to Pittsburgh).

- For your safety and enjoyment:**
- Always wear a life jacket
 - Obtain proper instructions in boating skills
 - Know fishing and boating regulations
 - Be prepared for river hazards
 - Carry proper equipment

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Photo Credits: Sam Lichtenwald, Lindsay Baxter, Sara Goots.

EXPLORING THE MID MON RIVER

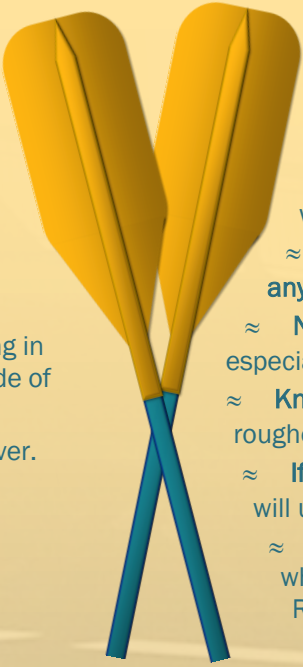
The Monongahela River slips gracefully through the hills of the Allegheny Plateau in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Known colloquially as “the Mon,” the river flows north 129 miles from the confluence of the West Fork and Tygart Valley Rivers in Fairmont, West Virginia to meet with the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The middle section (Mid Mon) featured on this map and guide is floatable year-round and extends 50 miles from Fredericktown to McKeesport in Pennsylvania.

The Mon’s rich history is rooted in industry. In the late-1800s, towns flourished along the riverbanks, producing innovations in ship building and supplying raw materials necessary for Pittsburgh’s steel industry to thrive. Immigrants of many nationalities settled in towns nearest to the Mon, choosing the region for the prevalence of jobs in coal and steel production.

A journey through the beautiful countryside of Western Pennsylvania on the Mid Mon is a voyage through the history of our nation. The river meanders through a valley rich in natural resources, around the breeding ground of the 1793 Whiskey Rebellion, past sites of scientific and technological innovation, and on toward the historic heart of American industry. Each community along the Mid Mon exhibits a unique cultural heritage. From natural beauties to vibrant communities, a trip on the Monongahela is certain to provide you with an unforgettable experience.

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS & BOATING REGULATIONS

- ~ Wear your life jacket: 80 percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- ~ Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- ~ Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don’t go paddling.
- ~ If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- ~ Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river. Avoid surprises.
- ~ Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Sudden winds and rain are common and can turn a pleasant trip into a risky, unpleasant venture.
- ~ Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- ~ Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- ~ Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile or neoprene socks.
- ~ Avoid boating alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- ~ Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secured.
- ~ Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- ~ Kneel to increase your stability before entering rougher water, like a rapid.
- ~ If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually prevent capsizing or flooding the boat.
- ~ File a float plan with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return. Remember to contact the person when you have returned safely.



- ~ A U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) is required for each person on board. In addition, one throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is required on boats 16 feet in length or longer. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- ~ From November 1 through April 30, boaters must wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during these cold weather months.
- ~ Life jackets must be the appropriate size for the person intended and must be in good, serviceable condition.
- ~ Life jackets must be worn by all children 12 years old and younger on all boats 20 feet or less in length while under way, and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a PFD at all times on the water.
- ~ All boats must display an anchor light (a white light visible 360 degrees) when at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Boats can use a lantern or clip-on battery-powered unit to meet this requirement.
- ~ Unpowered boats must carry a white light, either hand-held or installed, to be displayed in time to avoid a collision between sunset and sunrise and during restricted visibility.
- ~ All powered boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. All boats are required to carry a sound-producing device. Motorboats less than 40 feet in length must carry some mechanical means of making a sound signal. This device may be hand-, mouth- or power-operated. An athletic coach’s whistle is an acceptable device. Operators of unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) are required to carry a device capable of sounding a prolonged blast for 4-6 seconds that can be heard by another boat operator in time to avoid a collision. An athletic coach’s whistle is acceptable.
- ~ All motorboats must be registered, regardless of where they launch.
- ~ Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats) using Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission or State Park or Forest access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased through the Commission’s website at www.fishandboat.com (Click the “Outdoor Shop” icon) or at many state park offices.
- ~ Operating watercraft, including canoes and kayaks, under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. This law is strongly enforced for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at www.fishandboat.com.



STEWARDSHIP AND RESPECT

Please remember that a significant amount of land along the Monongahela is not public property. Unless you are absolutely certain, behave as if the land is privately owned. You must gain permission before entering such properties. Be considerate of others by moderating noise levels and behaving with respect when in the vicinity of homes or other boaters. This will ensure that everyone has a positive experience on the river!



Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Care for the land, water and cultural resources along the stream. Respect wildlife, nature and other recreationists. Wash footwear, boats and vehicles to minimize the spread of invasive species to other waterways. Review the “Leave No Trace” outdoor ethics guidelines at www.Int.org to minimize your impact. These include:

1. Plan and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfires
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY - All areas dial 911
US Coast Guard — 800-253-7465

Southwest Regional Medical, 1070 Old National Pike, Richesville
Monongahela Valley Hospital, 1163 Country Club Rd, Monongahela
MedExpress Urgent Care, 695 Clairton Blvd, Pleasant Hills
UPMC McKeesport Emergency Care, 1500 5th Ave, McKeesport

WEATHER AND RIVER CONDITIONS
Weather Forecasts — www.weather.gov — 412-262-2170
River Conditions — www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc — 412-262-5290
US Army Corps of Engineers — www.lrp.usace.army.mil — 412-395-7500

MAP & GUIDE PROVIDER
Brownsville Area Revitalization Corp — www.barcpa.org — 724-785-9331

PA STATE-WIDE WATER TRAIL MAP AND GUIDES
PA Fish and Boat Commission — www.fishandboat.com

TOURISM
Washington County — visitwashingtonpa.com — 866-927-4969
Westmoreland County — www.inwestmoreland.com
Laurel Highlands — www.laurelhighlands.org — 800-333-5661
Pittsburgh Tourism — visitpittsburgh.com — 412-281-7711
Mon River Town Program — www.monrivertowns.org — 412-481-9400
Rivers of Steel — www.riversofsteel.com — 412-464-4417

WHAT TO SEE ALONG THE WAY

- Mile 15 McKeesport**
McKeesport is located at the confluence of the Youghiogheny and Monongahela Rivers. Make sure to pay a visit to the Carnegie Free Library 📖, Renziehausen Park- Rose Garden and Arboretum 🌳, and McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center 🏛️.
www.mckeesport-pa.gov 📖 🏠 🌳 🏛️ 📶
- Mile 18 Glassport**
Glassport is home to the Ninth Street Ballfield, an outdoor sports complex with basketball courts and a playground area. The Steel Valley Trail, a section of the Great Allegheny Passage, can be accessed at 7th and Delaware St.
www.glassport.webs.com 📖 🏠 🌳 🏛️ 📶
- Mile 23 Elizabeth**
The barge at Elizabeth’s Riverfront Park 🏞️ is available for fishing year round. Lewis and Clark began their journey west in a keelboat built in Elizabeth. The town holds a festival each August to commemorate the event.
www.elizabethboro.com 📖 🏠 🌳 🏛️ 📶
- Mile 30 New Eagle**
There are several restaurants in close proximity to the river access point in New Eagle. In addition, a small park near the launch dock makes this community an ideal place to stop along the Mon.
www.neweagleboro.org 📖 🌳
- Mile 32 Monongahela**
Throughout the summer, the Monongahela Aquatorium 🏊 hosts music events right on the river. Make sure to stop by the Monongahela Area Historical Society 🏛️ or take a stroll in Chess Park.
www.cityofmonongahela-pa.gov 📖 🏠 🌳 🏛️ 📶
- Mile 39 Monessen**
The Greater Monessen Historical Society operates the Monessen Heritage Museum 🏛️. The river access point is well-equipped with a picnic area and bathrooms on site.
www.cityofmonessen.com 📖 🏠 🌳 🏛️ 📶

SYMBOL LEGEND			
📖 Gas Station	🏠 Park	🏛️ Historical Site	📶 Point of Interest
🌳 Restaurant	🏛️ Lodging	📶 Pharmacy	(see corresponding list on map)

A SHORT DRIVE AWAY

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| River Mile 17 Dravosburg (www.dravosburg.org)
21 Clairton (www.cityofclairton.com)
22 Lincoln Borough (www.lincolnborough.com)
25 Jefferson Hills (www.jeffersonhillsboro.org)
28 Union Township (www.uniontpw.com)
34 Carroll Township (724-483-7330) | River Mile 35 Forward Township (www.forwardtownship.com)
37 Donora (www.donorahistoricalsociety.org)
45 Dunlevy (724-483-3672)
46 Allenport (724-326-4021)
51 Newell (724-938-7300)
61 Centerville (www.centervilleboro.org) |
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SUGGESTED TRIPS

Lock-Free
Monessen to Monongahela - 6.7 miles– Great trip for beginners!

Fun in the Sun (locking required)
Ten Mile Creek to California, PA - 14.0 miles - (See the Upper Mon Water Trail Map) Start your day in scenic Ten Mile Creek Park and travel north for a walk through the California University of PA campus.

River Towns (multi-day trip, locking required)
Point Marion to Monongahela - 56.8 miles - (See the Upper Mon Water Trail Map) Make a stop along at all eight communities participating in the River Town Program (see below).



ABOUT THE RIVER TOWN PROGRAM



The Mon River Town Program, is regional initiative of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. The program is based on a cooperative, collaborative approach that builds closer connections between communities and their riverfronts as a significant asset with the potential for attracting visitors, business, and economic revival. BARC works closely with the Mon River Town Program to promote recreational use of the Mon River. As of 2013, five of the communities featured in the Mid Mon Map & Guide are collaborating with the River Town Program: Fredericktown, Brownsville, California, Charleroi and Monongahela. Point Marion, Greensboro, and Rices Landing, all featured on the Upper Mon Water Trail Map, are also participating. As these communities begin to realize the economic potential represented by the river as a resource, they become invested in its long-term sustainability. The goal is to conserve the resource and to increase the engagement of bordering communities to do so.